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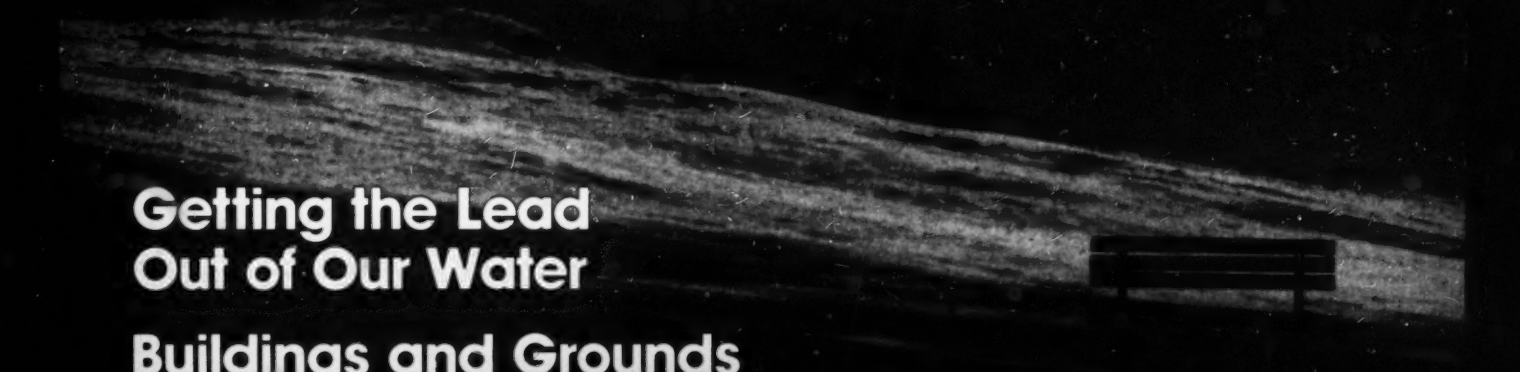

Getting the Lead Out of Our Water

Buildings and Grounds Maintenance

Landfills Become Landscapes

AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY®

March 1989 Vol. 104, No. 3

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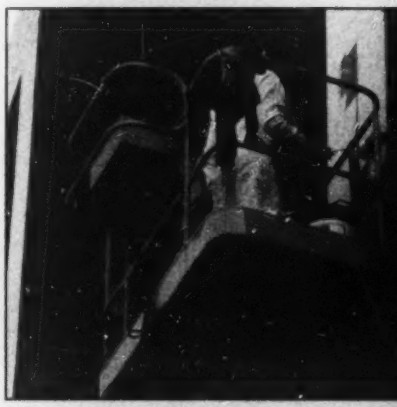

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EDITOR'S VIEW

An American Urban Forest

Most communities have a "tree lady" or a modern-day "Johnny Appleseed." Sometimes their's is a lone voice against cutting down a tree uprooting a neighborhood sidewalk. Sometimes they lead a group protesting a plan to knock down a forest for a housing development.

Tree ladies and men today are being regarded as more than council gadflies. Their cry to "save the trees" is taking on global significance. They are now saying "save the world," and in some places are being heard. In Los Angeles, for example, Mayor Tom Bradley wholeheartedly is supporting a group of community activists known as the Tree People who, in 1984, were successful in a campaign to get 1 million trees planted before the Olympic games were played. Now they are trying for 5 million new trees in Los Angeles to set an example for the rest of the nation.

In the park and recreation section of our issue this month, local government leaders are being urged to pay more attention to their urban forests, not only to create more livable cities, but to create a better world. Advice is offered about how to set up an urban forestry program and examples are given of how eight California cities are approaching the task.

Scientists and forestry experts, worried about the warming of the globe through the greenhouse effect, are warning the United States that we must reverse the decline of urban forests. The American Forestry Association (AFA) last October launched a Global ReLeaf program, the domestic side of which urges the planting of 100 million trees in American cities by 1992.

Trees can help reverse the greenhouse effect by absorbing the carbon dioxide that is being trapped in the atmosphere, turning the earth into a "planetary hothouse." Conservationists have been promoting tree planting for more than a century, but R. Neil Sampson, executive vice president of the AFA, in reference to the great drought of 1988, says "never before have our efforts been bolstered by a global imperative of the magnitude we experienced this summer. Global ReLeaf will show people that they can plant a tree and cool the globe."

The AFA estimates that 100 million trees planted in urban spaces could absorb 18 million tons of carbon dioxide a year. The United States, with one-20th of the world population, produces a quarter of the carbon dioxide that is contributing to the rise in global temperatures through the burning of fossil fuels. The effects of the pollution, coupled with deforestation, are prompting frightening scenarios of the future, and some scientists are telling us that the future is now.

We have had the five hottest years of the last century in the 1980s, and global temperatures are now the highest since records have been kept. The U.S. Senate last fall heard NASA scientist Dr. James Hansen testify that he is 99 percent certain the drought was a result of the global warming trend. After the hearings, the Senate declared that carbon dioxide buildup and global warming are the biggest environmental problems of the next decade.

Urban forests, surprisingly, account for 70 percent of the nation's forest land and they are in serious decline as cities expand out into rural forest areas. Experts estimate that only one tree is planted for every four removed by cities. Ed Macie, senior arborist for Fulton County, Ga., says Atlanta loses 50 acres of trees a day as the city burgeons. One nearby county has lost 26 percent of its forest cover in the past 10 years, Macie says.

The AFA has devised a formula to help cities figure out how many of the 100 million trees they should be planting. Very few cities so far are doing their part, and only one out of 20 surveyed by the AFA replaces as many trees as it removes. That city is Lansing, Mich. A third of the cities plant only one tree for every eight they destroy. Maintenance programs also are in serious decline. Almost all the cities surveyed reported spending more money to remove trees than to replace or maintain them.

Foresters acknowledge that rebuilding the urban forests alone isn't going to reverse the greenhouse effect. But it will help and will set an example for the rest of the world.

Los Angeles has started. Atlanta has started. New York has started, through Paul Kerzner, its "Johnny Appleseed," who has overseen the planting of 7,000 trees in four Queens neighborhoods. Lansing has started, and Chicago, through its Neighbor Woods project. The eight California communities Clay Martin writes about this month have started.

Unlike so many municipal issues, this one is easy. When a major tree-planting campaign is launched, no one will storm city hall, yelling "Not In My Back Yard." □

—Janette Mitchell

savant. The Southerly Wastewater Treatment Plant in Cleveland, operated by the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, and the plant serving Appleton, Wis., were named co-plants of the year. A special 10-year service award was given to the treatment plant in Anderson, Ind.

SOUTHWEST

Friendly Texans Impress Visitors Most

The latest survey of visitors to Texas proves that "The Friendship State" is more than just a slogan.

The state Highway Department's "Auto Visitor Survey" for the third quarter of 1988 showed that friendliness is what visitors enjoy most about Texas, followed by scenery and good highways.

Don Clark, director of the department's Travel and Information Services, says the survey is needed because "the tourist dollar is critical to the Texas economy."

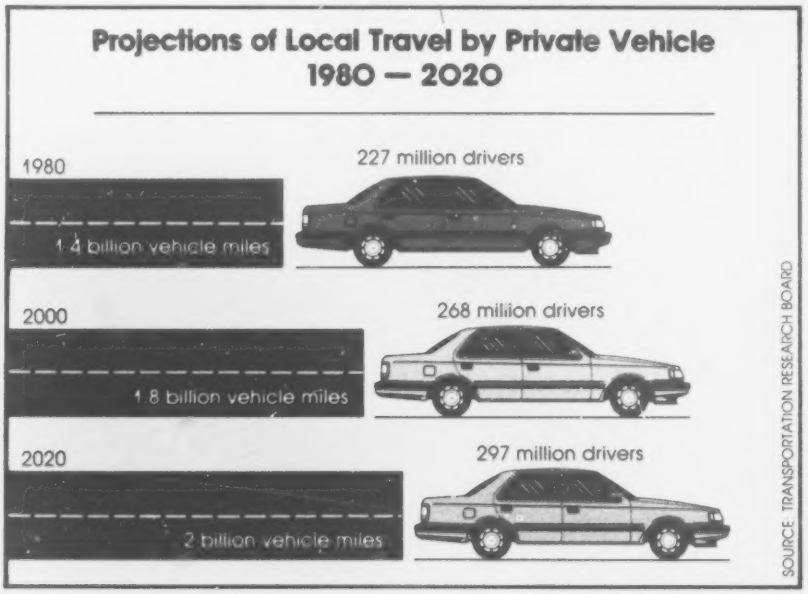
"The data on visitors gives the tourist industry the facts necessary to compete for the Texas share of a multibillion-dollar business," he says.

Dallas, San Antonio and Houston were the most popular cities, and the Alamo topped the list as the most popular tourist attraction. A majority of the visitors traveled to Texas for a vacation or to visit friends or family, while 15 percent came for business and conventions.

Oklahoma, Louisiana and California led the list of home states of Texas visitors. The average travel party consisted of two to three people, who spent an average of $465 during a five-day visit.

Travelers who stopped at Texas tourist bureaus filled out the 17-question survey. The 12 bureaus, operated by the Highway Department, provide routing information and other travel material.

SURVEY SPOTLIGHT



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Circle No. 16 On Reader Service Card

The **Producer Price Index** registered the greatest gain this month, 0.6 percent, to 109.0. The **Municipal Cost Index** rose 0.3 percent, to 116.7, while the **Consumer Price Index** increased 0.2 percent. The **Construction Cost Index** registered the least gain, 0.1 percent, but was down 8.5 percent from last year.

Among commodities, construction equipment rose 0.2 percent, to 113.2, while passenger cars rose 3.7 percent from last year. Trucks dropped 0.1 percent, to 117.1 for the month, but gained 5.7 percent from last year.

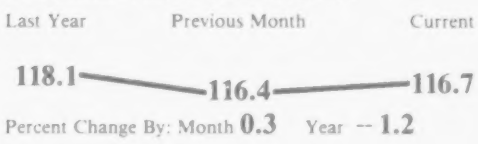
—Compiled by Tim Darnell

MOST RECENT MARKETBASKET

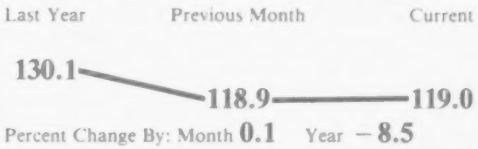
	Current Index	Percent Change From: Previous Month	Last Year
Air Conditioners	115.6	0.5	4.9
Apparel	113.3	0.6	3.5
Asphalt Roofing	96.4	−1.0	1.7
Ball Bearings	120.3	−0.4	11.0
Coal	94.7	0.1	−1.3
Communication Devices	103.3	0.1	0.5
Concrete Products	110.5	0.4	1.0
Construction Machinery	113.2	0.2	3.2
Diesel Fuel	39.8	9.0	−19.6
Electric Components	118.8	0.4	2.7
Electric Power	110.6	1.3	2.0
Floor Coverings	116.6	0	4.5
Fuel Oil No. 2	51.4	8.2	−12.0
Foundry Products	111.4	0.1	4.1
Furniture	126.4	0.4	5.3
Gasoline	55.5	−5.5	−3.3
Generator Sets	124.9	0.7	6.2
Glass	110.9	0.2	1.5
Glass Containers	112.3	0.4	−0.2
Gypsum Products	114.0	−1.0	−6.2
Hardware	117.1	0.7	5.5
Heating Equipment	120.9	0.2	6.0
Industrial Chemicals	114.1	1.4	16.2
I.C. Engines	112.5	0.2	2.6
Iron	82.8	0	0.1
LP Gas	46.2	0.7	−22.9
Lumber	127.3	0	−3.1
Metal Fabrications	117.8	0.8	8.5
Mixed Fertilizers	106.3	0.7	4.7
Motor Vehicle Parts	107.9	0.1	1.5
Natural Gas	79.3	3.3	0.9
Office Machines	108.7	0.6	2.5
Paint	124.0	−0.2	14.1
Paper	127.7	0.2	11.3
Passenger Cars	116.3	0.2	3.7
Petroleum	44.2	12.8	−18.3
Plastics	140.0	−0.2	18.9
Plumbing Fixtures	132.1	0.2	8.5
Plywood	104.6	1.2	0.4
Portland Cement	102.8	0.5	0.6
Pumps	111.4	0.2	5.0
Residual Fuel	39.8	9.0	−19.6
Rubber	109.5	−0.4	1.7
Sand, Gravel	120.9	−0.1	1.9
Sanitary Papers	117.7	0.9	7.3
Soaps, Detergents	119.7	0.4	7.4
Sporting Goods	106.6	0	2.8
Steel Mill Products	112.8	−0.4	6.6
Switchgear	114.7	0.4	4.1
Synthetic Fibers	99.7	0.2	6.5
Tires, Tubes	95.5	0.5	4.1
Tools, Dies	112.0	0.3	2.1
Transformers	111.2	1.6	3.1
Transmissions	118.2	0.3	4.5
Trucks	117.1	−0.1	5.7
Valves	116.7	0.3	6.7
Wire, Cable	148.8	4.9	18.7
Wiring Devices	126.1	−0.1	4.6

At-A-Glance Changes

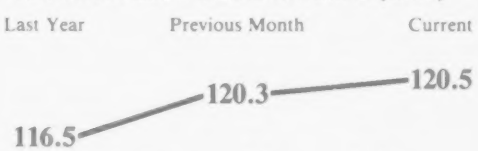
MUNICIPAL COST INDEX



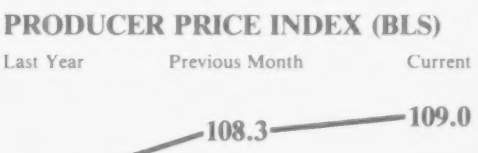
CONSTRUCTION COST INDEX



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BLS)



PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (BLS)



These figures are calculated on a base year of 1982.

QUARTERLY MUNICIPAL TRENDS

	Current Level	Percent Change From: Last Qtr.	Last Year
Receipts	698.4	2.3	10.0
Federal Grants	109.4	−1.6	5.1
Durable Purchases	30.0	2.4	6.4
Consumables	48.0	5.0	27.7
Services	444.6	3.4	14.8
Structures	66.4	2.5	2.8
Salaries, Wages	347.8	2.8	12.2
Surplus	56.2	0.1	5.4
Employment	14.547M	0.9	3.9